

in their congeners. Where they are found in abundance they are easier to kill than the more agile seals. They also produce more oil in proportion to their size. They have had no chance during late years to attain large size, and it is doubtful whether they will ever again be found as large as that one which Captain Scammon found to measure 22 feet in length. He also mentions one measuring 18 feet, which yielded 210 gallons of oil. The largest bulls killed by Captains Lee and Morrison in the seasons of 1883 and 1884 averaged but 90 gallons of oil each. I found a weather-worn, but still well preserved, skull on the Elephant Beach which measures exactly 2 feet. This indicates an animal of very great size, having probably a length of 20 feet.

While at Magdalena Bay I learned of their former occurrence at San Hipolito Bay, which may be about half way between Cerros Island and Cape St. Lucas. From the great number of weather-worn skulls and other bones found at various places it is evident that their former abundance has not been overestimated. The beach at San Cristobal Bay was lined with bones, and we found them at many places on Cerros, Benita, and Natividad Islands. The new-born young that were met with in 1883-'84 were dropped at various times between November 1 and February 1.

The sea-elephant without doubt affects the vicinity of the roughest breakers. We seemed always to find its bones opposite places so rough that we could not land without danger. Captain Scammon mentions finding ruins of the stone huts built by the seal hunters of half a century ago. We met with these, too, but I should also add that we found many a nameless grave where the body of some unfortunate man, drowned in the surf, had found a last resting place when the sea gave up its dead. At San Cristobal Bay we often had our boats half filled with water in landing. It was not safe in fact to land through the surf there in any other boat than a dory, while we were compelled to anchor our schooner at Turtle Bay, nearly 20 miles distant. After these wettings some one had usually a harrowing tale of death by drowning to relate, and could adduce evidence thereto by pointing out some lonely grave.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF BOAT-BILLED HERON FROM
CENTRAL AMERICA.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Cancroma zeledoni, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Resembling *C. cochlearia*, (Linn.), but differing in having the neck and breast deep buff instead of ashy white; the under surface of the primaries ashy instead of white; the upper parts much deeper pearl-gray, and the crest far less developed.

Hab.—Central America, from southern and western Mexico to Veragua.

Adult (type, No. 51388, Mazatlan, Mexico, February, 1868; F. Bischoff): Above, pure French-gray, somewhat paler and more écru on the primaries. Pileum (except forehead and fore part of the crown) including occipital crest, black, with a glaucous or chalky cast in certain lights. Forehead, pale grayish buff; superciliary and postocular regions and feathers bordering the base of the gular pouch, white; sides of head pale drab or grayish buff, passing gradually into deeper, more pinkish, buff on the neck, the whole foreneck, including jugular plumes, clear, deep vinaceous-buff, or pinkish-buff. Breast, abdomen, anal region, and lower tail coverts, rich vinaceous-cinnamon, lighter and more buffy on the abdomen, duller and more olivaceous on the tibiae. Lining of the wing dull black; edge of wing buff, becoming paler on the carpo-metacarpal region. Sides and flanks blackish-slate, with a strong glaucous or chalky cast in certain lights. Gray of the back separated from the light drab or grayish-buff of the neck by a narrow bar of black. Wing, 10.50; tail, 4.80; culmen, 3.20; depth of bill, .95; width of bill, 1.75; tarsus, 2.75; middle toe, 2.35.

Twelve examples, from various parts of southern and western Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Veragua, differ constantly and conspicuously from two South American specimens (one from the mouth of the Amazon, the other from British Guiana) in the characters pointed out above. The specimen described and selected as the type of the new species is the lightest colored example among the twelve. A binomial appellation is in this case preferred to a trinomial, for the reason that there is no indication of probable intergradation, the most southern specimen of the Central American form (from Veragua) being, on the contrary, the darkest of the whole lot.

The species is named in honor of Señor Don José C. Zeledon, the accomplished ornithologist, of San José, Costa Rica.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW HAWK FROM COZUMEL.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

—*Rupornis gracilis*, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Similar to *R. ruficauda griseicauda*, but decidedly smaller, and with the thighs and under wing-coverts nearly or quite immaculate, instead of distinctly barred and spotted, respectively. Wing, 8.00–8.80 (average of ten specimens, 8.44); tail, 6.00–6.30 (average, 6.13); culmen, .60–.72 (average, .67); tarsus, 2.20–2.40 (average, 2.3); middle toe, 1.05–1.20 (average, 1.17).

Hab.—Cozumel I., Yucatan.

Compared with eleven specimens of *R. ruficauda griseicauda* from various parts of Mexico, including four from Yucatan, the Cozumel birds are found to differ constantly in the characters pointed out above. The measurements of the series of *R. griseicauda* are as follows: Wing, 8.70–